

Abstract

Method and apparatus for fault management of computer networks which utilizes a proxy or recruit network device to test the responsiveness of a network device. When a first network device loses contact with a second network device, the first network device uses a proxy network device to determine if the second network device can be reached and reports back to the first network device whether the contact attempt was successful. The proxy network device may contact the second network device through a different path and/or protocol than used by the first network device.